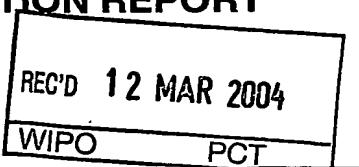


## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

27 SEP 2004

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT  
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference MON/P102161WO	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/GB 03/01242	International filing date (day/month/year) 24.03.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 28.03.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC B05D7/24		
Applicant PLASSO TECNOLOGY LIMITED et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
  
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.
 

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.
  
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
  - I  Basis of the opinion
  - II  Priority
  - III  Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
  - IV  Lack of unity of invention
  - V  Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
  - VI  Certain documents cited
  - VII  Certain defects in the international application
  - VIII  Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand  20.10.2003	Date of completion of this report  11.03.2004
Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority:   European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer  Polesak, H Telephone No. +49 89 2399-8628



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No.

PCT/GB 03/01242

**I. Basis of the report**

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

**Description, Pages**

1-23                          as originally filed

**Claims, Numbers**

1-40                          as originally filed

**Drawings, Sheets**

1/4-4/4                          as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description,        pages:
- the claims,              Nos.:
- the drawings,            sheets:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB 03/01242

5.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-40
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-40
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-40
	No: Claims	

**2. Citations and explanations**

**see separate sheet**

**Regarding Point V**

(1) WO-A-01 31339

1. The closest prior art is represented by document (1) which also describes plasma polymerisation which allows an ultra-thin cross linked polymeric film to be deposited on substrates. Plasmas are highly reactive chemical environments comprising ions, electrons, neutrals and electromagnetic radiation. In such an environment many volatile organic compounds (eg volatile alcohol containing compounds, volatile acid containing compounds, volatile amine containing compounds, or volatile hydrocarbons tend to polymerise, coating surfaces in contact with the plasma and those downstream of the discharge. The organic compound is referred to as the "plasma monomer", the deposit is referred to as "plasma polymer". The plasma polymerisation process of claim 1 is distinguished from that of document (1) mainly by the feature that the plasma monomer source is moved across the surface to be coated to manufacture a non-uniform plasma polymer surface. The requirements of Article 33(2) PCT regarding novelty are hence met. The significance of the difference between the plasma polymerisation process of the present application and that of document (1) is that the present case allows the provision of patterned surfaces that are non-uniform and define local surface regions that have different chemical or physical properties, whereas in document (1) uniform plasma polymerised surfaces are provided. In the available prior art, plasma monomer source is stationary, there is no suggestion in the prior art that the monomer source is moved across the surface to be coated. The approach of the present application is hence not obvious in the light of the prior art, hence the method of claim 1 also satisfies the requirements of Article 33(3) PCT as regards inventive activity. As a corollary, independent claims 32, 34, 37, 39 and 40 which claim substrates that are treated according to the process of claim 1 and dependent claims 2 to 31, 33, 35, 36 and 38 which give particular embodiments of the invention also comply with PCT Articles 33 (2)-(4).